Space Weather Technical Forecast

Issued on Sunday, 10 September 2023 at 13:01 Local

This technical forecast provides a four day assessment of space weather events. The probabilities stated below are for reaching or exceeding the given levels. For more information about space weather impacts please see the Met Office Space Weather Scales https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/space-weather/uk-scales

Space Weather Forecast Headline: Chance of M-flares (R1-R2 radio blackouts). Diminishing chance (5%) of a CME arriving at first on Day 1 (10 Sep).

Analysis of Space Weather Activity over past 24 hours

Solar Activity: Solar activity has been Low over the past 24 hours, with a peak flare of C8.3 at 10/0155 UTC, originating from AR3423 near centre disc. There are currently five numbered and five un-numbered sunspot regions on the visible disc. The largest region remains AR3423, located just north of centre disc, with further slight development observed in its intermediate portion. The elongated AR3421 (Eao/Beta) is showing decay as it approaches the west limb. AR3418, also near the west limb, has shown some growth in one of its intermediate spots and has been re-classified as a Cao/Beta. AR3425 in the northeast, continues to show some additional small spots within its intermediate region. AR3427 in the southeast is a small, simple bipolar region. There are now five un-numbered spots on the disc, although presently these are small and simple groups.

No Earth-directed CMEs have been observed in available coronagraph imagery in the past 24 hours.

Solar Wind / Geomagnetic Activity: Solar wind parameters, as measured at L1, were indicative of a slow regime. Solar wind speeds were mostly around 350-400km/s. Density was below average to average throughout. The IMF was weak and below 6nT throughout. The north-south component varied weakly between +/-6nT. The phi angle was mostly negative (towards the Sun). Geomagnetic activity was Quiet (Kp 0 to 2).

Energetic Particles / Solar Radiation: GOES16 high energy (greater than 10MeV) proton flux has been at background levels throughout. GOES16 high energy (greater than 2MeV) electron flux was predominantly at background levels but became moderate for a time, peaking at 288 pfu at 09/1705 UTC. The associated 24-hour fluence was well below the Active threshold and on a declining trend, with 4.8e6 integrated pfu observed at 10/0000UTC.

Four-Day Space Weather Forecast Summary

Solar Activity: Solar activity is expected to remain mostly Low but with an ongoing chance of isolated M-class flares, mostly from AR3425 and AR3423, and a very slight chance of an isolated X-class flare.

Solar Wind / Geomagnetic Activity: A slow CME which left the Sun on 05 Sept has been modelled to have an Earth-directed component, which may arrive early on Day 1 (10 Sep), although this remains low confidence. If this CME arrives it may bring a slight enhancement in geomagnetic activity. No other Earth-directed CMEs have been observed in the last 24 hours. In the absence of significant CME effects, the solar wind is most likely to remain slow-ambient, though there may be slight enhancements at times.

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Met Office Space Weather Technical Forecast

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly Quiet, but with a now diminishing risk of becoming more elevated at first on Day 1 (10 Sep) should we see any CME influence. Mostly Quiet through into Day 4 (13 Sep) when we may see the arrival of the next HSS from CH44/+, with geomagnetic activity increasing to Unsettled or Active intervals.

Energetic Particles / Solar Radiation: High energy (greater than 10 MeV) proton flux is expected to remain at background levels, with a very slight chance of an enhancement should any larger flares occur.

High energy (greater than 2 MeV) electron flux carries some uncertainty, however it is thought most likely that fluence will remain below the Active (1e8 integrated pfu) threshold throughout, with just a slight chance of reaching this level later in the period.

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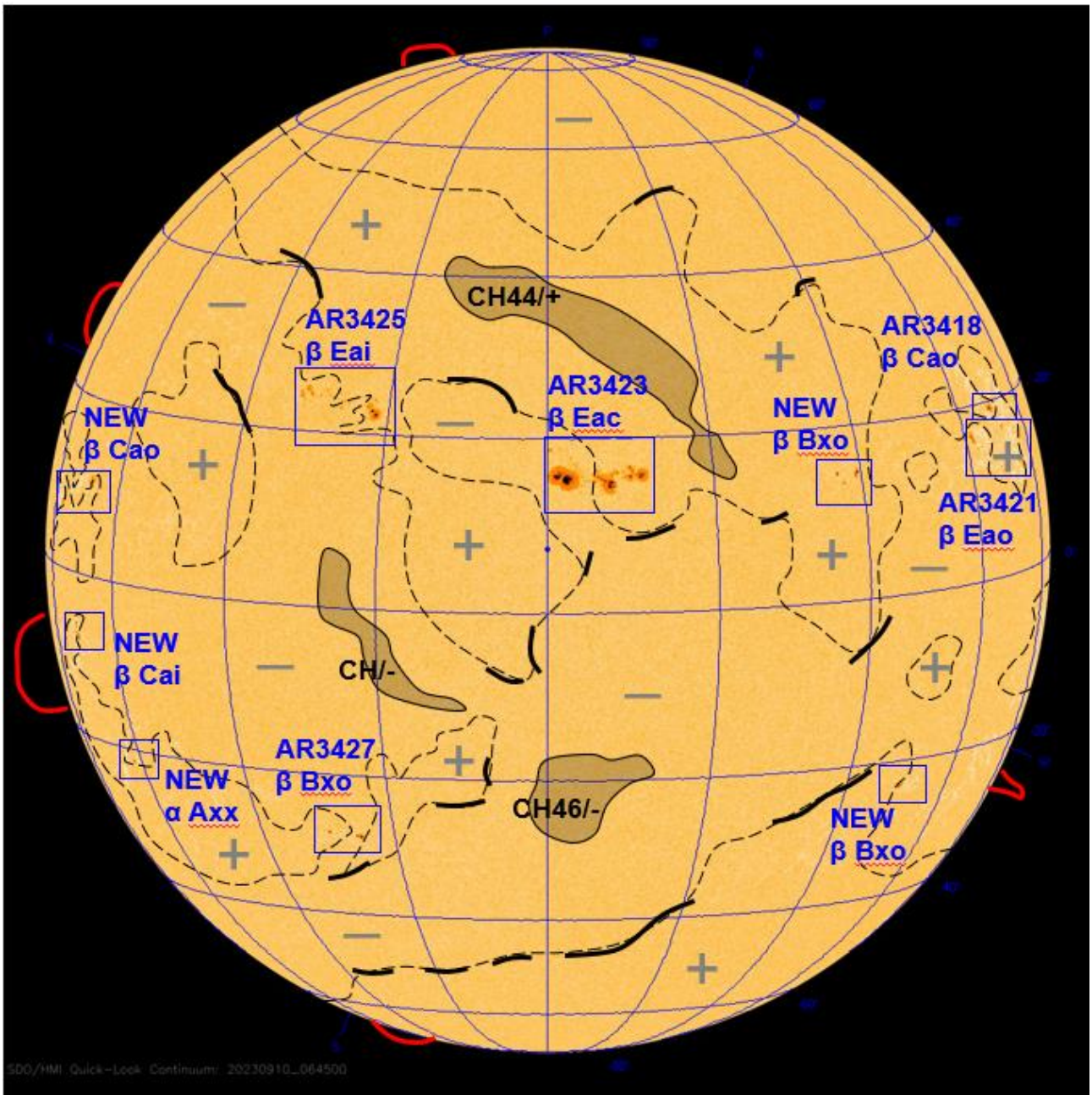
Figure 1. Solar Analysis Valid 10/0700 UTC.



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Key: Filament ___ , Prominence ___ , Magnetic Field Line - - - , Polarity +/-, Coronal Holes: Grey shaded area CHxx +/-, Sunspot groups 25xx - Mt Wilson α-β-βγ-βγδ and Zurich-McIntosh Axx etc.

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Geomagnetic Storms:

A slow CME which left the Sun on 05 Sept has been modelled to have an Earth-directed component, which may arrive early on Day 1 (10 Sep). However, analysis of this CME was contaminated by far side activity, thus reducing confidence significantly. No other Earth-directed CMEs have been observed in the last 24 hours. There are a significant number of filaments on the visible disc however, and these will need to be closely monitored for any lift-off.

With an absence of significant CME effects, the solar wind is most likely to remain slow-ambient. The solar wind persistence model (SWPM) is considered to give good guidance.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly Quiet, but with a now diminishing risk of becoming more elevated at first on Day 1 (10 Sep) should we see any CME influence. Mostly Quiet through into Day 4 (13 Sep) when we may see the arrival of the next HSS from CH44/+, with geomagnetic activity increasing to Unsettled or Active intervals.

Geo-Magnetic Storm Probability (Exceedance)	Level	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC) (%)
Minor or Moderate	G1 to G2	No	5	1	1	10
Strong	G3	No	1	1	1	1
Severe	G4	No	1	1	1	1
Extreme	G5	No	1	1	1	1

Geomagnetic Activity - Earthbound Coronal Mass Ejections

Date/time 21.5R (UTC)	Halo: Full or Partial	Source	Source Location	Estimated Speed	Estimated Arrival Time	Comments
06/0610	Prtial	Plage	S-Centre disc	440km/s	09/1200 UTC +/- 9 hours	Has likely missed.

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Radio Blackouts - X-Ray Flares:

There are currently five numbered and five un-numbered sunspot regions on the visible disc. The largest region remains AR3423, located just north of centre disc, with further slight development observed in its intermediate portion. The elongated AR3421 (Eao/Beta) is showing decay as it approaches the west limb. AR3418, also near the west limb, has shown some growth in one of its intermediate spots and has been re-classified as a Cao/Beta. AR3425 in the northeast, continues to show some additional small spots within its intermediate region. AR3427 in the southeast is a small, simple bipolar region. There are now ffive un-numbered spots on the disc, although presently these are small and simple groups.

The AR3418/AR3421 area is expected to depart the disc by the end of the period bringing a slight reduction in flare probability. However, there are signs from far-side soundings that one or more new regions may rotate onto the disc in the coming days, also one or two of the un-numbered regions may develop further. Therefore the current flare risk is maintained through the period. Solar activity is expected to remain mostly Low but with an ongoing chance of isolated M-class flares, mostly from AR3425 and AR3423, and a very slight chance of an isolated X-class flare.

X Ray Flares	Level	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC)
Probability			(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Active	R1-R2 M Class	No	40	40	40	40
Very Active	R3 to R5 X Class	No	5	5	5	5

Solar Radiation Storms - (High Energy Protons):

The high energy (greater than 10MeV) proton flux observed by GOES16 is now at background levels. Proton flux is most likely to remain at background levels, although there is a very slight chance of enhancements over the next few days, should any significant flares occur.

Radiation Storms	Level (cm^{-2} sr^{-1} s^{-1})	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC)
Probability (Exceedance)			(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Active	≥ S1	No	5	5	5	5
Very Active	≥ S3 *	No	1	1	1	1
* S3 ≥ 10 MeV ≥ 1000 pfu and / or ≥ 50 MeV ≥ 10 pfu. (pfu = $cm^{-2}sr^{-1}s^{-1}$)						

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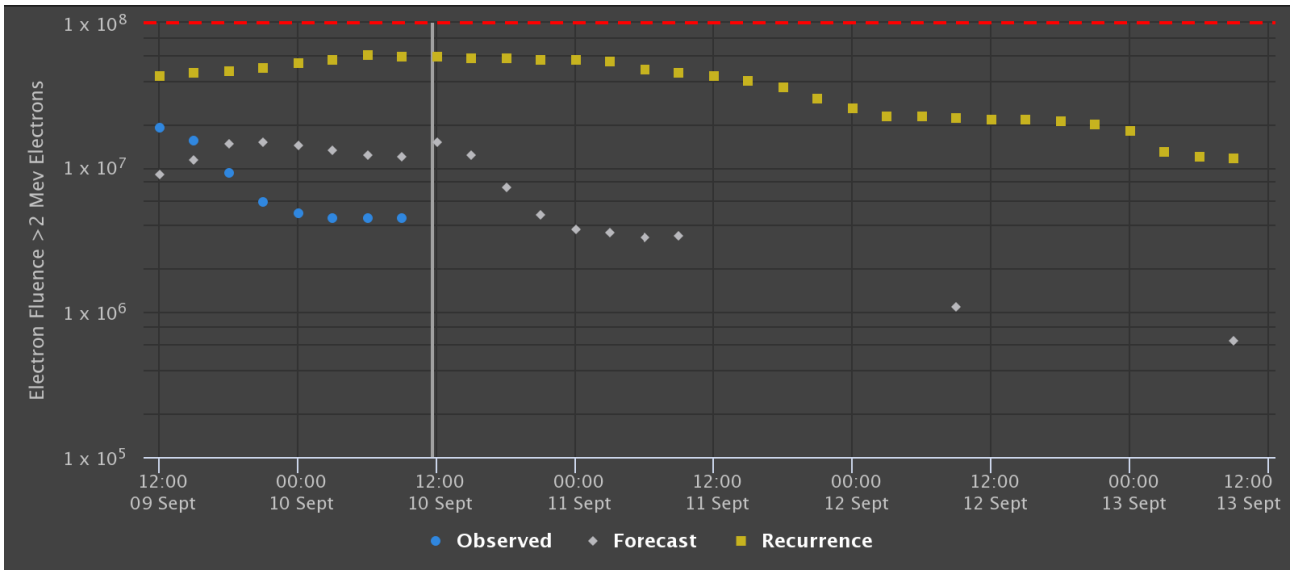
High Energy Electrons Event (≥ 2MeV):

High energy (greater than 2 MeV) electron flux is likely to remain at background to moderate levels for much of this period, with significant enhancements to the electron belt looking unlikely. An increase in flux and fluence levels is possible towards the end of the period, depending on the timing of connection with CH44/+, currently assessed as likely on day 4 (13th).

The associated 24-hour fluence will most likely remain below the Active (1e8 integrated pfu) threshold throughout the period, but with decreasing confidence with time. MOSWOC REFM is considered to be giving good guidance over the next 48 hours at least.

GEO Electron Environment Probability (Exceedance)	Level (cm^{-2} sr^{-1} day^{-1})	Past 24 Hours (Yes/No)	Day 1 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 2 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 3 (00-24 UTC) (%)	Day 4 (00-24 UTC) (%)
Active	**≥ 2 MeV ≥ $1x10^8$**	No	5	5	5	10
Very Active	**≥ 2 MeV ≥ $1x10^9$**	No	1	1	1	1

Figure 2: MOSWOC REFM



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